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SUBJECT: NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF POLICE SHAKES UP POLICE
LEADERSHIP

1.(U) On September 9 newly appointed Director of National Police, Niame Keita, replaced over 45 top police officials at the national and regional levels. Minister of Internal Security Sadio Gassama appointed Keita as Police director in June, replacing former Director Yacouba Diallo, now retired. Keita's appointment, and the changes he has subsequently initiated, are regarded as an attempt to address allegations of corruption with the Malian police force. During the September 9 shake up, Keita replaced office directors, special unit commanders, deputy commanders, and district commanders in all regions except Gao. This represents a large portion of senior police officials throughout Mali, including the head of the National Police School.

2.(U) The newly named officials appear to represent a cadre of trusted officers hand picked by Keita. The most high-profile replacement occurred in Bamako where the now ex-Police Commander, Boubacar Diouf, was implicated in the theft of CFA 448 million (approximately USD 1 million) from the police officers' pension fund. Diouf has been reassigned to the Office of the Inspector at the National Police Office in Bamako, considered a major step down from his previous post.

LEONARD